

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4850

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## AN ACT

To provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing compensation and life insurance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.



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## AN ACT

To provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing compensation and life insurance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Benefits Act  
3 of 2000”

4                   **TITLE I—ANNUAL**  
5                   **COMPENSATION INCREASE**

6 **SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-**  
7                   **TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**  
8                   **COMPENSATION.**

9       (a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans  
10 Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2000, increase the  
11 dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
12 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by  
13 the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

14       (b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar  
15 amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are  
16 the following:

17               (1) **COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar  
18 amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38,  
19 United States Code.

20               (2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-**  
21 **ENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under  
22 sections 1115(1) of such title.

23               (3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar  
24 amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

1           (4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in  
2       effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section  
3       1311(a) of such title.

4           (5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar  
5       amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such  
6       title.

7           (6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES  
8       WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-  
9       fect under section 1311(b) of such title.

10          (7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The  
11       dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and  
12       1311(d) of such title.

13          (8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The  
14       dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and  
15       1314 of such title.

16       (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-  
17       crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar  
18       amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-  
19       ber 30, 2000. Each such amount shall be increased by the  
20       same percentage as the percentage by which benefit  
21       amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act  
22       (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December  
23       1, 2000, as a result of a determination under section  
24       215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

1       (2) In the computation of increased dollar amounts  
2 pursuant to paragraph (1), any amount which as so com-  
3 puted is not a whole dollar amount shall be rounded down  
4 to the next lower whole dollar amount.

5       (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust ad-  
6 ministratively, consistent with the increases made under  
7 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-  
8 able to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public  
9 Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of  
10 compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38,  
11 United States Code.

12 **SEC. 102. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

13       At the same time as the matters specified in section  
14 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
15 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of  
16 a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act  
17 during fiscal year 2000, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
18 shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified  
19 in subsection (b) of section 101, as increased pursuant to  
20 that section.

## **TITLE II—BENEFITS IMPROVEMENTS**

**SEC. 201. STROKES AND HEART ATTACKS INCURRED OR  
AGGRAVATED BY MEMBERS OF RESERVE  
COMPONENTS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF  
DUTY WHILE PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY  
TRAINING TO BE CONSIDERED TO BE SERVICE-  
CONNECTED.**

(a) SCOPE OF TERM “ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR  
AIR SERVICE”.—Section 101(24) of title 38, United  
States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(24) The term ‘active military, naval, or air service’  
includes—

“(A) active duty;

“(B) any period of active duty for training during  
which the individual concerned was disabled or  
died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated  
in line of duty; and

“(C) any period of inactive duty training during  
which the individual concerned was disabled or  
died—

“(i) from an injury incurred or aggravated  
in line of duty; or

1                   “(ii) from an acute myocardial infarction,  
2                   a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident  
3                   occurring during such training.”.

4           (b) TRAVEL TO OR FROM TRAINING DUTY.—Section  
5 106(d) of such title is amended—

6                   (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”;

7                   (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
8                   subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

9                   (3) by inserting “or covered disease” after “in-  
10                  jury” each place it appears;

11                  (4) by designating the second sentence as para-  
12                  graph (2);

13                  (5) by designating the third sentence as para-  
14                  graph (3); and

15                  (6) by adding at the end the following new  
16                  paragraph:

17                  “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘cov-  
18                  ered disease’ means any of the following:

19                         “(A) Acute myocardial infarction.

20                         “(B) A cardiac arrest.

21                         “(C) A cerebrovascular accident.”.



1 **SEC. 202. COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AT SO-CALLED “K”**  
 2 **RATE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED LOSS OF**  
 3 **ONE OR BOTH BREASTS DUE TO RADICAL**  
 4 **MASTECTOMY.**

5 Section 1114(k) of title 38, United States Code, is  
 6 amended by inserting “or one or both breasts due to a  
 7 radical mastectomy or modified radical mastectomy,” after  
 8 “loss or loss of use of one or more creative organs,”.

9 **TITLE III—VETERANS LIFE**  
 10 **INSURANCE**

11 **SEC. 301. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE INDI-**  
 12 **VIDUAL READY RESERVE FOR**  
 13 **SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

14 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1965(5) of title 38,  
 15 United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
 17 graph (B);

18 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-  
 19 paragraph (D); and

20 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
 21 lowing new subparagraph (C):

22 “(C) a person who volunteers for assign-  
 23 ment to a mobilization category in the Indi-  
 24 vidual Ready Reserve, as defined in section  
 25 12304(i)(1) of title 10; and”.

1       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 1967(a),  
2 1968(a), and 1969(a)(2)(A) of such title are amended by  
3 striking “section 1965(5)(B) of this title” each place it  
4 appears and inserting “subparagraphs (B) or (C) of sec-  
5 tion 1965(5) of this title”.

6       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 this section take effect on October 1, 2000.

Passed the House of Representatives July 25, 2000.

Attest:

*Clerk.*